

Audacity



Aim

- I can use software to create my own sounds by recording, editing and playing.

Success Criteria

- I can name different devices (including input and output) used for sound recording.
- I can use a digital device to record my own voice.
- I can play back the recording and listen to it.
- I can delete and re-record sounds.

Digital Recording Devices



What devices are used to record sound?
Suggestions may include:



Computer

Digital
voice
recorders



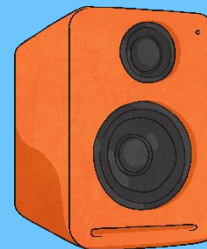
Answer machine



Phone

What input and
output are needed
to record and listen
to sound with a
computer?

We need a microphone (input) and...



...either speakers or headphones (output).

Using Audacity

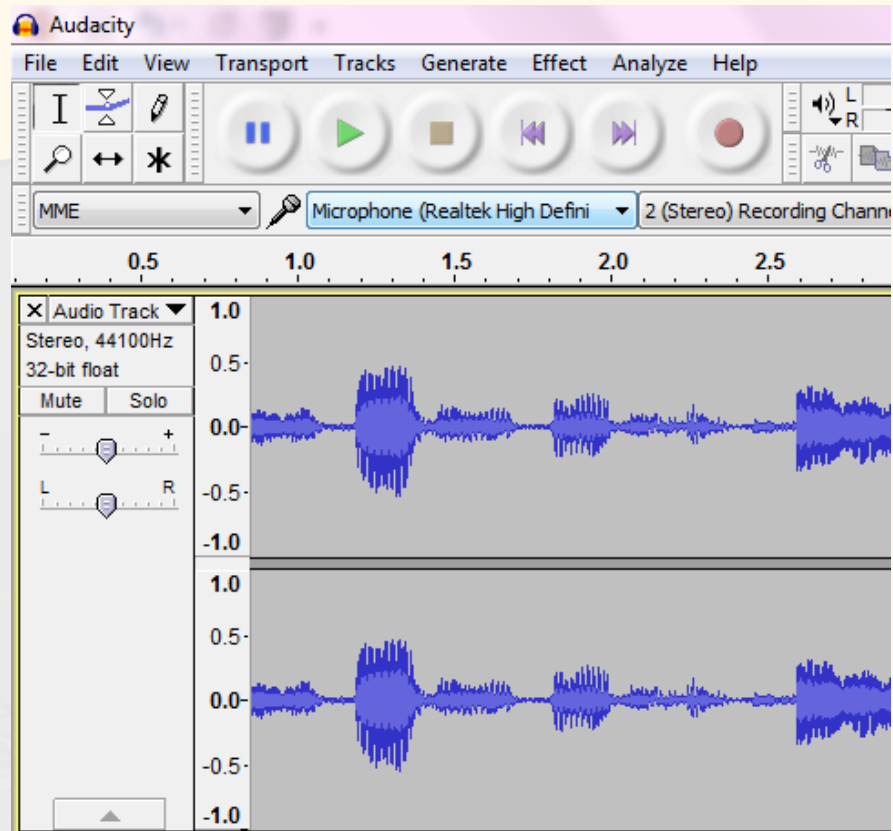
Audacity is one example of recording software that can be used on a PC or laptop. Specialist software allows you to record and then edit sounds.

More advanced features include:

Adding effects.

Changing properties (e.g. speed, volume, pitch).

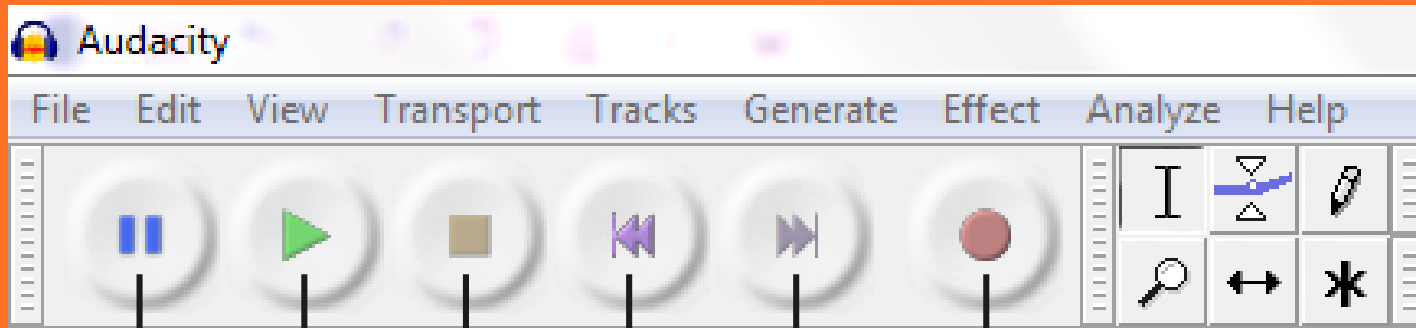
Layering multiple audio tracks.



Record and Playback

This is the Audacity main toolbar.

What do you think each of the big buttons are for?



pause

stop

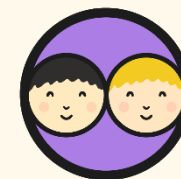
skip to
end

play

skip to
start

record

Recording Demo



Try out the features for yourself.

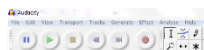
Can you record, playback and edit your own voice and other sounds?

Recording Sounds

Quick Record

Practise recording a new voice track.

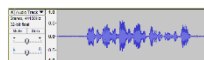
- Press the Record button.
- Speak clearly into the microphone. Say 'Testing 1, 2, 3. Welcome to my demo recording'.
- Press the Stop button.
- Listen back to your recording by pressing the Play button.



Re-record and Improve

If you make a mistake or want to redo your recording to make a better job, you can delete and start again.

- Click on the cross at the top-left hand side of the waveform, next to 'Audio Track'.
- This will delete your entire track and you can follow the Quick Record steps above to re-record.



Name Your Track

When you are happy with your recording, click on 'Audio Track' to reveal the drop-down menu. Select Name and type a new track name 'Voice Demo'.

Editing and Creating Effects

Find the slider on the toolbar for Playback Speed. This changes the speed which your voice recording is played back.

- Try sliding to the right to playback at double-speed or 'Playback Speed 2.00x' (don't worry about getting it exact).
- Click Play on the main toolbar to see what it sounds like.
- Now try sliding to the left to playback at half-speed or 'Playback Speed 0.50x'.
- Click Play on the main toolbar to see what it sounds like.
- Experiment by trying any other settings in between.



What Else Can You Do?

Decide on your own new recording to make. You could introduce yourself and say something about your hobbies; you could act the part of a newsreader or do an impression!

After recording one track, press the Record button again to record another track which will play at the same time.

Saving Your Work

To save your Audacity project, just choose File and Save. You can then open it up at another time to continue working on it.

To save as a finished sound file that can be opened in other software, you need to choose File and Export Audio.



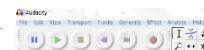
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Recording Sounds

Quick Record

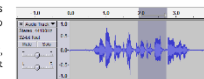
Practise recording a new voice track.

- Press the Record button.
- Speak clearly into the microphone. Say 'Testing 1, 2, 3. Welcome to my demo recording'.
- Press the Stop button if you've finished or use the Pause button to stop and carry on again.
- Listen back to your recording by pressing the Play button.



Re-record and Improve

- To delete and re-record your entire track, click on the cross at the top-left hand side of the waveform, next to 'Audio Track'.
- To delete a section of your recording, you can highlight, play that particular part and use the delete key or click Edit and Delete from the menu.



Name Your Track

When you are happy with your recording, click on 'Audio Track' to reveal the drop-down menu. Select Name and type a new track name 'Voice Demo'.

Editing and Creating Effects

Find the slider on the toolbar for Playback Speed. This changes the speed which your voice recording is played back.

- Try sliding to the right to playback at double-speed or 'Playback Speed 2.00x' (don't worry about getting it exact) or to the left to playback at half-speed or 'Playback Speed 0.50x'.
- Click Play on the main toolbar to see what it sounds like! Experiment in between.
- Select the Effect menu and choose Echo to explore a different type of effect.



What Else Can You Do?

- Decide on your own new recording to make. You could introduce yourself and say something about your hobbies; you could act the part of a newsreader or do an impression!
- After recording one track, press the Record button again to record another track which will play at the same time.
- Try adding your own sound effect or background effect as the background tune.

Saving Your Work

To save your Audacity project, just choose File and Save. You can then open it up at another time to continue working on it.

To save as a finished sound file that can be opened in other software, you need to choose File and Export Audio.



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Use the
Recording Sounds
Activity Sheet
for prompts.

Play and Share



We will play back a selection of clips that have been created.



Can anyone share a feature or process that they have discovered and teach everyone else how it's done?

Are there any original effects or sounds that anyone has made?

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